

ANNEX A

CUBAN-SOVIET JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF DECEMBER 19, 1960

The Economic Mission of the Cuban Revolutionary Government, headed by Major Ernesto "Che" Guevara, was in the Soviet Union from October 29 to November 16, from December 8 to 13, and from December 18 to 20, 1960.

The mission's chief objective was the signing of a trade agreement between the Soviet Union and the Republic of Cuba for 1961, pursuant to the trade and payments agreement signed at Habana on February 13, 1960.

The mission held a number of meetings at which technical assistance and cultural relations between the two countries were discussed.

The Cuban mission visited several cities in the USSR, numerous industrial centers, institutes and government offices, and had exchanges of views with various high-ranking officials.

During his stay in the Soviet Union, the head of the Cuban delegation, Major Ernesto "Che" Guevara, was received by Nikita Khrushchev, Chairman of the Council of Ministers.

In its meetings with the Cuban mission, the delegation of the Soviet Union was headed by A. I. Mikoyan, First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR.

The following persons took part in the talks as representatives of the Soviet Union: V. N. Novikov, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and Chairman of the State Planning Commission; N. S. Patolivhev, Minister of Foreign Trade; S. A. Skachkov, Chairman, State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations; G. A. Zhukov, Chairman, State Committee for Foreign Cultural Relations; M. R. Kuzmin, Deputy Minister of Foreign Relations; A. A. Goreglyad, Deputy Chairman, State Scientific and Economic Council; P. I. Sakin, Trade Representative to the Republic of Cuba; and other officials.

In the talks on economic affairs, Cuba was represented by Major Ernesto "Che" Guevara, Chairman of the delegation; Hector Rodríguez Llompart, Assistant Secretary for Administrative Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Major Alberto Mora, Chief Director, Cuban Foreign Trade Bank; Major Eddie Sunol and Major Faure Chomón Mediavilla, Cuban Ambassador to the Soviet Union.

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During the talks and the visit of the Cuban delegation to various places in the Soviet Union, the members of the delegation observed the success achieved by the Soviet Union in the development of socialism, and saw that it is advancing firmly toward communism.

The Cuban delegation was convinced that thanks to its rapid advance and development, its social way of life and its scientific well-planned economy, the Soviet Union will very soon catch up with the United States of America, the most highly developed capitalist nation in the world, and will quickly surpass it.

The delegation also saw that the housing problem, one of the most difficult problems faced by mankind in the capitalist world today, is being resolved very successfully in the Soviet Union, and they expressed admiration at the results obtained in this field. This is one of the greatest aspirations of the Cuban people that is still far from being realized.

The Cuban delegation had opportunity to note the great attention being given to the education of children in the Soviet Union and to their general development through the technical and cultural training of youth, which makes it possible to train each year a larger number of specialists and technicians than any capitalist country. This is the basis for ensuring the production of material values and achieving man's highest aspirations, such as the conquest of space.

The Soviet Union enjoys a tremendous advantage over capitalist countries, not only in scientific achievement, in both quantity and quality, but also in the peaceful use of these discoveries in the service of man, which is not the case in the capitalist countries.

The Cuban delegation confirmed that the launching of the first Soviet Sputnik into space opened up a new era in the history of mankind. This era is being initiated under the banner of socialism, headed by the Soviet Union, whose emblem, like a symbol of truth, has been taken to the moon, the natural satellite of earth.

The Cuban delegation recognized the sincere efforts of the Soviet Union to bring about world peace; efforts based chiefly on specific proposals on the peaceful co-existence of nations having different special systems and the clear and definite proposals for general disarmament put forward by Nikita Khrushchev, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union at the United Nations. All this is of still greater importance, if it is borne in mind that the country

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that is making these proposals for peaceful co-existence and disarmament is the most powerful nation on earth, whose success in the production of the most advanced and most threatening kinds of armaments considerably exceeds the results obtained by the entire group of militarist states.

The Economic Mission of the Revolutionary Government of Cuba brings a message of friendship and gratitude from the Cuban people and government to the people and government of the Soviet Union for the assistance given by an independent country that is in the vanguard of the socialist nations.

The Cuban delegation wishes to state that this assistance is being given in three ways:

First: pledges to construct complete industrial plants that can assure Cuba of having the principal items necessary for its industrial development, such as an iron and steel foundry and an oil refinery; and also pledges with respect to the development of oil and mineral deposits and the production of power.

Secondly: aid in the form of supplies of vitally important commodities that were cut off when the blockade of Cuba was ordered by the United States, especially the delivery of oil which has meant much effort by the Soviet Union and which gives proof of its present great economic power.

This is also reflected in the purchase of 700,000 tons of Cuban sugar, which amount exceeds the million tons agreed on in the Soviet-Cuban agreement, and which quantity the United States Government unjustly withdrew from the quota it had established for Cuba, a quota that formed part of an international agreement.

The third and most important aspect of the aid was the declaration made by Premier Nikita Khrushchev regarding the Soviet Union's willingness to lend Cuba full assistance in maintaining its independence against unprovoked aggression.

The delegation also noted the Soviet Union's efforts to protect the interests of the Republic of Cuba in international organizations at a time when this small republic has become one of the most sensitive spots in the problem of defending world peace.

The Soviet Union and Cuba have carried out their agreements, announced in Habana, to work together for world peace.

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The Soviet authorities told the Cuban delegation of the admiration of the people and government of the Soviet Union for the Cuban people, who, under the leadership of Fidel Castro, have established a democracy deeply rooted in the people of a land that had for many years been under the imperialist rule of the United States of America.

Both parties realize that this creates a new situation in the Americas, and that the struggle of the Cuban people to be independent and to maintain their gains without losing ground is an example for the other nations of the Western Hemisphere and for Asia and Africa as well.

The Soviet nation realizes perfectly well the difficult road that Cuba must follow to ensure the happiness of its people under hostile military, political and economic conditions. In the political field, there is pressure by the United States on other Latin American countries to break relations with Cuba and isolate it from its neighboring American republics, and from the countries of Europe, Asia and Africa.

In the economic field, there is the failure of the United States to keep its commitment to buy Cuban sugar under the old trade quotas, which were established at the will of American imperialists themselves when Cuba was merely its colony.

There is, too, the establishment of a ban on exports from the United States to Cuba, exports necessary to its development and general well-being and to supply its industries and feed the Cuban people; the adoption of measures by the United States with respect to the establishment by other countries of embargoes in their trade relations with Cuba, with a view to preventing the Americas and Europe, through coercive measures, from trading openly with Cuba.

Direct military threats have been made by top-ranking representatives of the government of the United States of America; there have been pirate air incursions; bombing of the Cuban people and industries; the dropping of napalm and other incendiary bombs on sugar plantations, principal source of the nation's wealth; support of invasions of Cuba from United States soil with the intention and for the deliberate purpose of disturbing the peaceful development of the country; aid to counterrevolutionaries operating in Cuba as mere gangsters, stealing from Cuba means of transportation and killing those responsible for their custody, in order to be received as heroes in United States territory; support of counter-revolutionary groups operating in the country against lawfully established government, which groups receive all kinds of supplies from the United States, delivered by military aircraft from the United States itself and

bearing) the licenses and insignia of the United States army, that have fallen into the hands of the Revolutionary Government along with most of the members of such groups.

Provocation to acts of sabotage, paid for in dollars by United States agents, many of whom have been caught in their espionage activities; military and naval maneuvers in waters near Cuba for the purpose of provoking and intimidating the Cuban people and their government; the organization of training camps and bases to serve as a springboard for an attack on Cuba, established in Latin American countries, whose peoples are at the moment under the yoke of puppets of the United States; the landing of troops and intimidating training maneuvers at the Guantánamo Naval Base in Cuban territory itself; unjustly occupied by the armed forces of the United States of America, who have converted it into a source of constant threats against the Cuban revolution.

The Soviet Union declares that it is in sympathy with the measures being adopted by the Government of the Republic of Cuba; the agrarian reform that is being carried out there to guarantee the people greater social justice and a more stable economic basis for the subsequent job of industrializing the country; nationalization of all the foreign imperialist companies that for decades have been obtaining enormous profits at the cost of the hunger and sweat of the Cuban people; nationalization of the country's principal industries and its banking system to create a point of departure for future economic plans that will guarantee the growing prosperity of the Cuban people; the urban reform, putting into practice measures whereby the Cuban Revolutionary Government is meeting the demands expressed by Fidel Castro in his declaration of principles, "History Will Absolve Me," made before the military tribunal of the regime of the dictator Batista.

The Soviet Union warmly supports the "Declaration of Habana," which describes the aspirations of the Cuban people for new achievements in their economic and social development and represents a just reply to the "Declaration of San José," approved in Costa Rica.

The Soviet Union recognizes as just Cuba's efforts to maintain relations with its neighboring Latin American republics through a foreign policy independent of that of the colonial bloc the United States is endeavoring to maintain in that part of the world, and linked to the countries that are waging a just struggle for their freedom and independence beside other countries in the field of peace.

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During the talks, complete agreement was reached on the economic questions. A trade agreement between the Soviet Union and the Republic of Cuba was signed for 1961, providing for a considerable increase in the volume of trade between the two countries.

Under the agreement signed, Cuba will export to the Soviet Union raw sugar, nickel oxide, canned fruit juices, tanned hides, and other goods.

The Soviet Union will export to Cuba petroleum and its derivatives, metal products, rolled tin, wheat, fertilizers, chemical products, machinery, machinery supplies, foodstuffs in general and other articles required to ensure the uninterrupted operation of Cuban industry, the successful development of its economy and supplies of goods needed by the Cuban people.

An agreement was signed providing that the Soviet Union, pursuant to Cuba's wishes, will give technical assistance to the Republic of Cuba in accordance with the loan granted under the Soviet-Cuban Agreement of February 13, 1960, in connection with geological exploration for iron ore, chromium, petroleum and other minerals, and will deliver to it the necessary equipment and tools; the construction of metallurgical plants and expansion of the existing steel foundries; the construction of electric power plants and transmission lines; and the construction of a new oil refinery.

Technical assistance in the construction and expansion of facilities of the above-mentioned undertakings will be carried out by organizations of the Soviet Union through the necessary plans and drawings and any explorations needed, and the government of Cuba will be furnished with equipment, machinery and supplies that cannot be found in Cuba and with the installation of equipment and the work needed to put the enterprises in operation.

The agreement also provides for assistance by the Soviet Union to the Republic of Cuba in the training of Cuban specialists for various branches of the Cuban national economy. Under this agreement, the Soviet Union will train Cuban students as engineers in various fields of specialization and as scientists, skilled workers and industrial experts in Soviet companies.

The trade agreements between the Soviet Union and the Republic of Cuba for 1961 were signed by A. I. Mikoyan, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union, and Major Ernesto "Che" Guevara, Chairman of the Economic Delegation of the Republic of Cuba.

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During their stay in the Soviet Union, the mission signed several multilateral payment agreements, regulating relations between the Republic of Cuba and the Soviet Union and various socialist countries. The Cuban peso will be the currency used under this agreement.

An agreement on cultural cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Republic of Cuba was also drawn up, covering scientific, educational and artistic, as well as athletic, exchanges. It was signed by G. A. Zhukov, Chairman, State Committee for Foreign Cultural Relations, and Major Ernesto "Che" Guevara, Chairman of the Economic Delegation of the Republic of Cuba.

An agreement was reached that both parties should establish a program of practical measures during the coming year for cultural and scientific cooperation, which will be signed in Habana.

The two parties discussed the problems created for the Cuban economy by the economic aggression of the United States. The Soviet Union agreed to adopt all possible measures to ensure supplies of goods of vital importance to the Cuban economy that cannot be obtained in other countries, and also expressed its willingness to purchase 2,700,000 tons of Cuban sugar if the United States carries out its threat not to buy any more sugar from Cuba. If the United States buys some Cuban sugar, the Soviet Union will reduce its purchases by that amount, taking into account the existing agreement that requires the Soviet Union to buy one million tons of Cuban sugar annually and considering that the delivery of certain Soviet exports, such as petroleum, for example, for which there is a special agreement, will be paid for by deliveries of Cuban sugar.

The price of unrefined sugar was fixed, with due regard for the interests of the Cuban people, at four cents per English pound (f.a.s.). The Cuban representatives viewed with satisfaction both this fact and the spirit of solidarity demonstrated by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries in helping Cuba, which is faced with economic aggression.

During the talks, the two parties discussed problems relating to the present international situation, and they reaffirmed their agreement in attitude toward the principal problems of mankind today.

The two parties denounce the militarist policy of imperialism, whose principal exponents are the monopolistic groups of the United States, as demonstrated in the following: persistence in carrying on

the "cold war"

the "cold war" and the aggressive "brinkmanship" evidenced by acts of espionage and open aggression, flights by United States aircraft violating the borders of the Soviet Union and other countries; attempts by imperialism to cause internal disturbances, encouraging discord within a country, as for example in Laos and the Congo, and hostility between nations for the purpose of repressing the desire for peace of all nations, as is happening in the Central American countries, which the United States is inciting to take action against Cuba; attempts to intensify the policy of combining aggressive blocs designed to subdue the desire of peoples for independence or to prevent such a desire from developing.

The establishment of military bases in other countries for the purpose of aggression against the Soviet Union and all the other socialist countries, and also against any other peace-loving states, in order to exert constant pressure on unstable governments and even directly to threaten those governments which, in conformity with the wishes of their peoples, are following an independent policy. As an example Guantánamo Base can be cited, which the United States is using to bring pressure against the people and government of Cuba.

Both parties denounced the arbitrary use of international organizations to carry out plans of the imperialist powers for world domination. Outstanding examples of this policy are the Congo, which is being dismembered and where an antinational government is being installed, and Cuba, "denounced" in the "Declaration of San José," for accepting the aid generously offered by the Soviet Union in case of aggression.

The two parties agree that it is necessary to settle without delay the problem of the restoration of the legitimate rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations, whose place is now occupied by Chiang Kai-shek's minion. The two parties support the admission to the United Nations of the People's Republic of Mongolia, which has existed as a sovereign state for forty years and whose application for membership has been under consideration at the United Nations for more than fifteen years. Both parties steadfastly support the struggle being waged by various peoples against colonialism and agree that this dark period in the history of man should be ended as soon as possible. Accordingly, the two parties express their support of the Algerian people, who are fighting untiringly for freedom against the colonial oppression of the French Government, and they express their confidence in the successful outcome of the struggle being waged by the Algerian people, thanks to their tenacity and heroism and the solidarity of all the peoples of the world.

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The two parties support the admission of the People's Republic of China and the People's Republic of Mongolia to the United Nations and demand a prompt solution of the Congo problem and recognition by the United Nations of the legitimate Congolese Government, headed by Premier Patrice Lumumba, who represents the Congolese people. Both parties request the release of Patrice Lumumba, who is now in prison.

The two parties share the view that it is necessary to achieve a peaceful unification of Korea and Viet-Nam, in accordance with the wishes of their peoples and without foreign intervention.

The atmosphere of these talks, the primary objective of which was to put a number of measures into effect and denounce absolutely the actions of imperialism, was marked by a desire to preserve peace throughout the world and to seek by every possible means a solution for the international questions now in dispute by peaceful methods alone.

Accordingly, the Soviet Union and Cuba declare that they resolutely advocate peaceful co-existence between states with different social systems and firmly support the proposals for disarmament and adaptation of the structure of the United Nations to the new world situation, which Nikita Khrushchev put before the members of the United Nations.

The two parties declare with utmost clarity that the peace of the world will never be endangered or violated in any way by the Soviet Union or Cuba.

(Signed): Anastas Mikoyan, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR.

Major Ernesto "Che" Guevara, Chief of the Economic Mission of the Revolutionary Government of Cuba.

Moscow, December 19, 1960.